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tration. The portion of the work which interests us the most is that on the Will. Here Professor Haven combats one by one the Protean forms in which the fatalism of the ancients comes up under successive philosophical and religious disguises. In treating of the Divine influence, he was compelled to cross the confines of theology, and has ably vindicated the freedom of the human will as guaranteed against intrusion even on the part of its Author, who yet, in his own reserved modes of access to the consciousness, may "present such motives as shall seem to the mind weighty and sufficient," and may thus lead to a right choice in the same way (though with a surer aim) in which men by the presentation of motives affect one another's free volitions.

We ought not to omit saying, that each leading division of this treatise is closed by an historical sketch of the progress of thought and the range of speculation on that one portion of intellectual science.

- 17.— *Cosmogony, or the Mysteries of Creation: being an Analysis of the natural Facts stated in the Hebraic Account of the Creation, supported by the Development of existing Acts of God toward Matter.* By THOMAS A. DAVIES. New York: Rudd and Carleton. 1857. 8vo. pp. 415.

MR. DAVIES is manifestly a man of extensive erudition, and a vigorous and independent thinker, but not a clear writer. His book is a fresh, and in many respects an original, discussion of the Mosaic Cosmogony, as affecting and affected by the facts and deductions of modern science. He maintains on philological and defends on scientific grounds the literal construction, by which the six days of creation are made days of twenty-four hours each. He meets the geological difficulties in the way of this interpretation, by supposing that the pre-Adamic fossil plants and animals never existed in any other than their present state. "The mineral fossil is the simple mineral aggregation of crystals, and presents no more proof of the animal's having lived on the earth, than the first tree did, when it came from the hand of God, of its previous existence." This theory was indeed suggested by Chateaubriand in his "*Génie du Christianisme*," and it was not unworthy of the conceited Frenchman, who loved to promulgate the vagaries of an errant fancy as the last dicta of philosophy; but we did not expect to see it revived or copied at this late day. "All things," it is said, "are possible with God"; yet with reverence we would maintain that it is not possible, because not consistent with his veracity, for him to create appearances which, by the legitimate con-

clusions of analogy and sound reason, mean and indicate the opposite of the truth. As well might we maintain the delusiveness of all astronomical reasoning, and deny the earth's rotation and the sun's superior magnitude, because the ancient system of the universe is recognized by Moses.

On one topic Mr. Davies opens a new route for Biblical inquiry. He denies *on Scriptural grounds* the descent of the human race from a single pair. He supposes that God created on the sixth day types and progenitors of the various races of men, of which it fell within the historian's purpose to follow up the record only of the parent stock to which the Hebrews traced their descent. All Biblical scholars very well know that the same Hebrew word, through the first five chapters of Genesis, is translated sometimes "Adam," sometimes "man," sometimes "the man," and this without reference to the presence or absence of the article in the text. Mr. Davies, by sometimes using the generic term where our translators employ the individual designation, and *vice versa*, furnishes a rendering which serves his purpose, in which we can detect no error, and which certainly deserves the attention of Hebrew critics. Such an exposition relieves the sacred record from asserting or sanctioning the relations — too abhorrent from the dictates alike of natural fitness and revealed religion to be specified — which on the commonly received hypothesis must have existed among Adam's children.

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18. — *Climatology of the United States, and of the Temperate Latitudes of the North American Continent, embracing a full Comparison of these with the Climatology of the Temperate Latitudes of Europe and Asia. And especially in regard to Agriculture, Sanitary Investigations, and Engineering. With Isothermal and Rain Charts for each Season, the Extreme Months, and the Year. Including a Summary of the Statistics of Meteorological Observations in the United States, condensed from Recent Scientific and Official Publications.* By LORIN BLODGETT. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1857. 8vo. pp. 536. Charts and Plates XIII.

WE can convey in a brief notice no adequate idea of the magnitude and interest of this work, of the variety of sources that have been laid under contribution to its contents, and of the toil and skill requisite to adapt them for use, and to deduce the general facts, principles, and laws which they suggest or verify. Mr. Blodgett has collated all the observations bearing upon climate made at the United States military posts since